

MINUTES - Unapproved

April 14, 2010

SITE: West Minnehaha Recreation Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carrie Wasley, Therese Kelly, Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Betsy Mowry, and Andy Trcka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Middleton (excused), Peter Pha (excused), Erick Goodlow

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Diana Berchem, Brian Tourtelotte, Ellen Stewart, Jody Martinez

GUESTS: None

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by **Chair Wasley**.
- b. **Commissioner Kelly** moved to approve the Agenda and was 2nd by **Commissioner Carter**. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four Commissioners absent (Commissioner Bishop arrived after this vote was taken).
- c. **Commissioner Kelly** moved to approve the March minutes with one correction: **Commissioner Mowry** noted that under the Dog Park Subcommittee Section, the minutes referenced the "Minneapolis dog parks". This reference is now corrected to read "St. Paul dog parks". The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four Commissioners absent (Commissioner Bishop arrived after this vote was taken).
- d. **Director Hahm** made reference to the updated Parks and Recreation Commission roster that a few of our commission members' terms are expiring with this month's meeting. He encouraged the Commissioners whose terms are ending and who may have an interest in staying on as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner to consider re-applying.

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Resolution#10-04 Cooperative Agreement on Stormwater Management**
Director Hahm reviewed the issues of this plan/policy as it was presented at the February Parks Commission meeting then introduced Brian Tourtelotte, Project Manager. Brian Tourtelotte indicated that the policy was revised through a series of joint meetings with staff of both Departments (Parks and Recreation and Public Works) and is now recommended by both Departments for adoption.

It was motioned to approve the Water Resources Protection Cooperative Policy by Commissioner Trcka and 2nd by Commissioner Kelly. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four Commissioners absent (Commissioner Bishop arrived after the vote was taken.)

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Parks and Recreation System Plan Update

Director Hahm gave a brief overview of the plan and then introduced Bob Smith, the Project Manager from the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Bob Smith indicated that, as part of the 2010 budget process, the City Council requested the Department of Parks and Recreation invest in an assessment for the future. The Parks and Recreation System Plan is a road map of a system-wide evaluation of needs for the Department.

HKGI, Inc. is the consultant closely working with us in preparing the plan. Site inventory data collecting has now begun which should be done by the end of April. Community meetings are also **tentatively** scheduled for: May 12 at North Dale Recreation Center; May 19 at Oxford Community Center/Jimmy Lee Recreation Center; May 24 at El Rio Vista/Wellstone Center; and May 26 at Phalen Recreation Center or Battle Creek Recreation Center.

Commissioner Trcka requested dates for these community meetings when finalized. Diana will provide.

Commissioner Kelly pointed out the first community meeting at North Dale is on the same night as the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting – May 12. Director Hahm offered to change the date of the community meeting.

Director Hahm mentioned that we are open for more ideas to engage the community. Any ideas can be sent to **Director Hahm** or Diana.

b. Central Corridor - Parks and Recreation Issues

Director Hahm introduced Ellen Stewart, Project Manager, from the Parks and Recreation's Design and Construction Section. Ellen introduced the project as a Metropolitan Council project with the Department of Planning and Economic Development taking the lead for the City. The project consists of an LRT route being development along University Avenue in St. Paul. Ellen is the Department of Parks and Recreation's lead to oversee the project as it relates to the development of parkland or potentially new parkland along the route. Anticipated completion date is in 2014 with potentially more work long term.

Director Hahm commented that since this is a long-term project, there may be potential Parks and Recreation Commission discussions as the project progresses. Any questions that come to mind, can be directed to Diana.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

a. Time change to the May meeting

Director Hahm pointed out that the May Parks and Recreation Commission meeting location is changed to the Rice Street Library. The Rice Street Library closes their doors at 8 pm and have requested, if possible, that we finish our meeting by that time. **Director Hahm** recommended a 6:00 pm start time. It was requested to possibly look at a 5:30 pm start time. Diana will check on the status of the space and get back to everyone with a confirmation.

b. Second Shift Youth Commission

Director Hahm talked about some changes to the Second Shift Youth Commission. The Mayor wants the work of the Second Shift Youth Commission to be sustainable and more closely aligned with the work of City departments. To assure this, he is requesting the following actions to take place:

1. Kari Denisson Cunnien, Manager to the Second Shift Youth Commission, will now report jointly to Kit Hadley, St. Paul Libraries Director; and Mike Hahm, Director of Parks and Recreation.
2. The Second Shift related work is to be more involved with these Departments on an ongoing basis.
3. The Parks and Recreation Commission is being considered the most logical organization for a permanent youth commission subcommittee.

Director Hahm recommends adopting a Youth Commission subcommittee on a permanent basis and invite them to 1 or 2 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings a year.

Commissioner Bishop recommends some kind of award system for their involvement.

The issue of the permanent subcommittee for the Youth Commission will be a May agenda item.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Oxford Community Center/Jimmy Lee Recreation Center Fields Update – Director Hahm** indicated that further studies has shown that lead in the tot lot area is not considered unsafe. A community meeting to discuss the lead contaminants in the fields was scheduled for Monday, April 19 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at Oxford Community Center.
- b. Public Works Issues – Director Hahm** briefly talked about the issues that have occurred within the Department of Public Works and how it has affected the Department of Parks and Recreation. He encouraged the Commissioners to take a look at the reports. The Department of Parks and Recreation has evaluated and increased efforts to monitor accountability among the staff within the Department. Rich Lallier, former Manager to our Operations Section, is now serving as Interim Director to the Public Works Department. Because of this appointment, other Parks and Recreation vacancies have occurred resulting in various staff being temporarily assigned to fill the vacancies.
- c. Flood Recovery** – The flood recovery is going well, but has resulted in accumulated expenses. It is doubtful we will get a Federal disaster declaration.
- d. Public School Closings** - Due to the potential closing of some public schools, pools and the programming within (ie., middle school athletics), we will need to look closely at how this can impact services. The City and the District will collaborate further.
- e. Budget** – 2011 forecasts have improved based on the actions of the State but long term challenges still exist.
- f. Electronic Pedal Bicycles** - The Three Rivers Park District announced their proposal to use electronic pedal bicycles on their regional park trails. Although the City of Saint Paul legislative code identifies our trails as “appropriate for only non-motorized use”, it will require further examination what this change would have on our system. The issue will be discussed at a bicycle policy issues meeting in August or September.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

- a. **Dog Park – Commissioner Mowry**
Commissioner Mowry indicated that the issues with the downtown St. Paul dog park usage continues. The Committee is working with them on setting goals.
- b. **Second Shift – Commissioner Mowry, Commissioner**
Nothing to report – Commissioner Mowry did not attend.
- c. **Blooming St. Paul – Commissioner Middleton**
Commissioner Middleton was not in attendance but provided comments from the most recent Blooming St. Paul meeting. Chair Wasley read Commissioner Middleton's comments.
- d. **Transportation Advisory Board – Commissioner Trcka**
Nothing to report.
- e. **Trees – Commissioner Goodlow**
Nothing to report. Commissioner Goodlow was not in attendance.
- f. **Ramsey County Conservation District – Chair Wasley**
Nothing to report.
- g. **Phalen –Keller Master Plan Committee–Commissioner Bishop**
Commissioner Bishop attended the Phalen-Keller Master Plan Committee. Two plans are under discussion as well as talks on traffic issues. Overall the committee is going well, but so far no City of Maplewood representation.
- h. **Other Reports**
Commissioner Carter mentioned that the Bicycle Advisory Board is still active.
Director Hahm handed out the 2010 NRPA Congress & Exposition Volunteer Registration Form for those interested in volunteering at the next conference held in Minneapolis on October 25-29.

6. ADJOURNMENT

It was motioned to adjourn by **Commissioner Kelly** and 2nd by the remaining commissioners. The vote was 6 to 0 with three commissioners absent. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.